

# CONSTRUCTION FORESTRY MINING AND ENERGY UNION NEW SOUTH WALES BRANCH



7 June 2011

Mr M Lennon  
Secretary  
Unions NSW

FAXED  
7/6/11

By facsimile: (02) 9261 8982

Dear Comrade

The CFMEU and its members are concerned that the Iranian regime is withholding urgent medical treatment for two unjustly imprisoned trade unionists. The union has been alerted to the deteriorating health of Mansour Osanloo and Reza Shahabi and are seeking their release.

The men are, respectively, president and treasurer of the ITF-affiliated Vahed Syndicate. They are among a number of trade unionists who have been imprisoned in Iran as a result of their trade union activities.

The CFMEU expresses its grave concern for these two unionists. We believe that Mansour Osanloo is again suffering from serious heart problems and was taken to a hospital on the 1st of May. We are informed that his doctors have advised that surgery is urgently needed.

Mr Shahabi has been experiencing repeated, unexplained nosebleeds, but again, no adequate medical treatment has been given, even though he has been appealing for this for some time now. Both his family and colleagues are deeply concerned.

The CFMEU has previously demanded the release of trade unionists imprisoned in Iran – including Mansour Osanloo, Reza Shahabi and Ebrahim Madadi. Unions across the globe have condemned the regime's oppressive treatment of those trying to defend workers' rights in Iran. It is noted that Masour Osanloo was released on the 4 June to seek medical attention but this is conditional on his return to imprisonment.

An apparent assurance from the Iranian government last year that Mansour Osanloo would be pardoned was not fulfilled. We therefore once again strongly urge that as a mark of our solidarity that we urge the Iranian regime to provide adequate medical treatment to Mansour Osanloo and Reza Shahabi without any delay.

Further, Iran was one of the original signatories to the UN Declaration of Human rights and a member of the ILO. Iran is therefore bound by the commitments given and the responsibilities bestowed upon it in honouring these basic human rights. Iranian regime is attempting to join the World Trade Organisation to promote its legitimacy in the world. Iran in recent times have displayed an appalling record of incarcerating Union leaders, brutal and oppressive attacks of protest movements and their entry to the WTO must be opposed.

On 9 June the Iranian global day of action in support of Iranian workers, which is supported by the European Trade union movement, will rally outside the ILO centenary conference in Geneva. The CFMEU calls upon Unions NSW to recognise the struggle for the just and humane treatment and release from prison of trade unionists and support the global day of protest action in Geneva on 9 June 2011.

Yours in solidarity,

**MALCOLM TULLOCH**  
*State Secretary*

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